

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 USSS-00 A-01 SY-10 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE 2536

INFO SECDEF

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 1078

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, GR, US

SUBJECT: GOG DESIRE FOR US ASSISTANCE TO COUNTER
TERRORISM AND CONTROL CIVIL DISTURBANCES

SUMMARY: GOG HAS REQUESTED ASSISTANCE IN ENHANCING ITS
CAPABILITY TO COUNTER TERRORISM AND COPE WITH PUBLIC
DISORDER. GREEK MOTIVES ARE QUESTIONABLE, AND PUBLIC
SAFETY ASSISTANCE TO GOG BY USG PRESUMABLY UNTENABLE
POLITICALLY. DESPITE CLOSE GREEK POLICE COOPRATION
WITH USG AND FACT THAT POLICE HAVE NOT BEEN TAINTED IN
EYES OF GREEK PUBLIC BY POLITICAL EVENTS OF RECENT YEARS,
EMBASSY BELIEVES REQUEST SHOULD BE ANSWERED NEGATIVELY
AND REQUESTS GUIDANCE. END SUMMARY.

1. ON FEBRUARY 7, A GENDARME COLONEL AND A LT. COL.
AND A POLICE COLONEL, ALL STAFF OFFICERS IN MINISTRY
OF PUBLIC ORDER, APPROACHED JUSMAGG WITH REQUEST THAT
IT PROVIDE ASSISTANCE IN CREATION OF A GENDARMARIE/POLICE
"QUICK REACTION FORCE" TO COUNTER TERRORIST ACTIVITIES
AND TO COPE WITH PUBLIC DISORDER. GREEK OFFICERS STATED
THAT ONE COMPELLING FACTOR WAS NEED TO AVOID CIRCUMSTANCES
SUCH AS THOSE OF MID-NOVEMBER 1973, WHICH LED TO USE OF MILITARY
UNITS TO SUPPRESS DISTURBANCES. MANNER IN WHICH CONTACT MADE
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SUGGESTS THAT OFFICERS MIGHT HAVE BEEN DIRECTED TO JUSMAGG

BY GREEK MILITARY, WHO, REPORTS INDICATE, WERE QUITE DISSATISFIED WITH
ROLE THEY BELIEVE CIRCUMSTANCES THRUST ON THEM IN NOVEMBER 1973.

2. JUSMAGG OFFICER LISTENED TO REQUEST SYMPATHETICALLY, EXPLAINED
THAT ASSISTANCE SOUGHT SEEMED OUTSIDE SCOPE OF JUSMAGG'S CHARTER,
REQUESTED THAT REQUIREMENTS BE PROVIDED IN WRITING, AND
UNDERTOOK TO EXPLORE WHAT MIGHT BE DONE TO MEET NEED. SUBSEQUENTLY,
WRITTEN STATEMENT OF REQUIREMENTS RECEIVED, AS SET FORTH PARA 3
BELOW.

3. "MECHANIZED QUICK REACTION SECURITY FORCE UNITS
SUBJECTS:

- ESTABLISHMENT, ORGANIZATION, COMPOSITION OF UNITS;
- EQUIPAGE BY BOTH MECHANICAL AND TECHNICAL MEANS;
- UNIT AND INDIVIDUAL ARMAMENTS AND EQUIPMENTS;
- PERSONNEL, BACKGROUND-SELECTION-QUALIFICATIONS;
- TRAINING, THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL TRAINING.

DURATION OF TRAINING.

SUBJECTS - PROGRAMS:

- BIBLIOGRAPHY - METHODS OF INSTRUCTION - SLIDES -
FILMS - WAYS AND MEANS OF CONFRONTING DEMONSTRATIONS,
HIJACKINGS, OCCUPATION OF BUILDINGS BY ANARCHISTS;
WAYS AND MEANS OF LOCATING EXPLOSIVE DEVICES AND METHODS TO
INACTIVATE THEM, ETC.
- OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS OF POLICE FORCES OR OTHER AGENCIES
INVOLVED IN MATTERS SUCH AS THIS ONE.
- TYPES OF ACTIONS TO DISPERSE DEMONSTRATIONS (PLANS OF ACTIONS,
FORMATIONS, MANEUVERS, MOVEMENT OF ARMORED VEHICLES, RIOT CONTROL
TECHNIQUES, CROWD CONTROL, ETC.).
- CHEMICALS AND OTHERS (TEAR GAS, SMOKE, ETC.)."

4. RECENT GREEK EXPERIENCES WITH TERRORIST ACTIVITY
CERTAINLY HAVE SHARPENED GOG'S AWARENESS OF ITS
INADEQUACIES IN THIS REGARD. BUT EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT GOG'S
KNOWLEDGE OF DEEP US INTEREST IN COUNTERING TERRORISM HAS LED IT
TO LINK THIS PROBLEM WITH THAT OF COPING WITH PUBLIC DISORDER SO AS
TO MAKE MORE PALATABLE AND MORE LIKELY USG PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE
IN LATTER AREA. WHATEVER MOTIVATION LED TO CONTACT, AND HOWEVER
USEFUL QUICK REACTION FORCE MIGHT BE IN ANY RECURRENCE OF HIJACKINGS
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OR SIMILAR EVENTS UNCONNECTED WITH GREEK INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION,

FACT IS THAT SUCH FORCE MOST LIKELY TO BE USED AGAINST STUDENTS OR
OTHER ELEMENTS PROTESTING AGAINST MILITARY REGIME.

5. IT IS EMBASSY'S UNDERSTANDING THAT CONGRESSIONAL DISSATISFACTION
WITH CERTAIN KINDS OF US ASSISTANCE TO POLICE FORCES AROUND WORLD HAS
MADE VERY UNLIKELY USG PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE REQUESTED IN ENHANCING

GENDARMARIE/POLICE CAPABILITY TO COPE WITH PUBLIC DISORDER.
POOR REPUTE WITH WHICH GREEK REGIME REGARDED IN CONGRESS PRESUMABLY
MAKES THIS UNLIKELIHOOD VIRTUAL CERTAINTY. MOREOVER, SHOULD USG AT
THIS STAGE IN AFTERMATH OF STUDENT DISTURBANCES AND COUP
D'ETAT OF NOVEMBER-PROVIDE SPECIALIZED EQUIPMENT, TRAINING, OR
ADVICE, IT WOULD BE OPEN TO CHARGE OF AIDING AND ABETTING OPPRESSION
IF
GREEK PEOPLE, OR ELEMENTS THEREOF, EXERCISED FRANCHISE IN ONLY FASHION

LEFT OPEN TO THEM. IN FACT, US WOULD THEN WILLY NILLY BE DRAWN
INTO INTERNAL SITUATION.

6. DESPITE FOREGOING, IT MUST BE NOTED THAT GREEK GENDARMARIE/POLICE
HAVE ALWAYS BEEN EXCEEDINGLY COOPERATIVE IN PROVIDING PROTECTION
FOR OFFICIAL US PROPERTY AND PERSONNEL. MOREOVER, THEY HAVE GENERALLY
AVOIDED ASSOCIATION IN MINDS OF GREEK PUBLIC WITH REPRESSIVE ACTIVITIES

OF REGIMES OF RECENT. THIS ONUS INCONTESTABLY BELONGS TO ESA,
MILITARY POLICE HEADED BY BG IOANNIDES. IN VIEW OF THIS FACTOR,
AND OF NEED TO MAINTAIN EFFECTIVE WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH
CURRENT REGIME, EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT REQUEST SHOULD BE ANSWERED
IN NON-OFFENSIVE BUT NEGATIVE FASHION.

7. REQUEST GUIDANCE FROM DEPARTMENT FOR JUSMAGG USE IN RESPONDING
TO REQUEST.
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